part because of a lack of awareness about energy efficient technologies and design practices among building professionals.

That is why I introduced the Green Energy Education Act. This legislation authorizes the Department of Energy to partner with the National Science Foundation to support graduate education and curriculum development to advance DOE's broad energy technology development mission. Working through NSF, DOE will help develop the next generation of engineers and architects to produce buildings incorporating the latest in energy efficient technologies.

In order to reduce the likelihood of duplicative and wasteful programs, this bill also allows the Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation to combine their efforts to find workable solutions to the issues surrounding building efficiency that then can be transferred to the marketplace.

Specifically, H.R. 1716 will authorize DOE's Office of Science and applied energy technology programs to contribute funds to the NSF's successful Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship program, which is already doing great work in this area.

This bill also authorizes the DOE to contribute to NSF's curriculum development activities in order to improve the ability of engineers and architects to design and construct more efficient and durable buildings.

I urge my colleagues to support this important step towards increasing America's energy independence.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is another great effort that we are making, another important step in helping to reduce our energy consumption in this country. It's critical for national security, our economic security and to combat global climate change, and certainly energy efficient buildings, great work is being done in this, and much more work needs to be done.

I have seen at the Department of Energy lab the work that is being done on some of this. I think much more needs to be done. This bill will help to provide these opportunities for more students, more people to learn about what it takes to make our buildings more energy efficient.

Again, I commend Mr. MCCAUL and Mr. HILL for this bill, and I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, today the House will consider H.R. 1716, the Green Energy Education Act. As the lead Democratic sponsor of this bill, I am pleased that it has moved so quickly through committee. I believe its rapid movement onto the floor of the House for a vote is indicative of the bill's importance and timely subject matter.

H.R. 1716 promotes the design and construction of energy efficient buildings by authorizing the Department of Energy to partner with the National Science Foundation (NSF) in support of multidisciplinary graduate education and curriculum development activities that will enhance the DOE's broad energy technology development mission. By working with the NSF, DOE will help develop the next generation of engineers and architects to work effectively together to produce buildings and incorporating the latest in energy efficient technologies.

Buildings in the U.S. consume a disproportionate share of our energy and electricity. We must do something to make our buildings more energy efficient and friendly to the environment. In fact, buildings in the U.S. consume more energy than any other sector of the country, including industry and transportation. According to 2003 U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) statistics, U.S. buildings consume 39 percent of our nation's primary energy and 70 percent of electricity.

We need to do everything we can to address the harmful things we are doing to the environment. This bill is a step in that direction—making buildings more energy efficient and less stressful on our energy and electrical supplies. And, it will save businesses considerable sums of money in the long run.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote for this important bill and take a step forward in easing our dependence on foreign and harmful energy sources.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1716, the Green Energy Education Act of 2007.

Mr. Speaker, "green energy" is defined as energy that is produced and used in ways that lessen air pollution and other environmental impacts.

An investment in green energy education will benefit our Nation in important ways. It is good for the environment, because it reduces environmental impacts of the production and delivery of energy.

Green energy also reduces harmful greenhouse emissions.

H.R. 1716 directs the Department of Energy to contribute funds to the National Science Foundation for the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship program. This program is important in supporting graduate education related to green energy projects.

The bill also supports energy technology research and development for high tech buildings and for educational activities to teach students how to improve building design that is not harmful to the environment.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 1716 and urge my colleagues to support it also.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1716, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

□ 1150

H-PRIZE ACT OF 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 632) to authorize the Secretary of Energy to establish monetary prizes for achievements in overcoming scientific and technical barriers associated with hydrogen energy, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 632

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''H-Prize Act of 2007''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTERING ENTITY.—The term ''administering entity'' means the entity with which the Secretary enters into an agreement under section 3(c).

(2) DEPARTMENT.—The term ''Department'' means the Department of Energy.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Energy.

SEC. 3. PRIZE AUTHORITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a program to competitively award cash prizes in conformity with this Act to advance the research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of hydrogen energy technologies.

(b) ADVERTISING AND SOLICITATION OF COMPETITORS.—

(1) ADVERTISING.—The Secretary shall widely advertise prize competitions to encourage broad participation, including by individuals, universities (including historically Black colleges and universities and other minority serving institutions), and large and small businesses (including businesses owned or controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged persons).

(2) ANNOUNCEMENT THROUGH FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE.—The Secretary shall announce each prize competition by publishing a notice in the Federal Register. This notice shall include essential elements of the competition such as the subject of the competition, the duration of the competition, the eligibility requirements for participation in the competition, the process for participants to register for the competition, the amount of the prize, and the criteria for awarding the prize.

(c) ADMINISTERING THE COMPETITIONS.—The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with a private, nonprofit entity to administer the prize competitions, subject to the provisions of this Act. The duties of the administering entity under the agreement shall include—

(1) advertising prize competitions and their results;

(2) raising funds from private entities and individuals to pay for administrative costs and to contribute to cash prizes, including funds provided in exchange for the right to name a prize awarded under this section;

(3) developing, in consultation with and subject to the final approval of the Secretary, the criteria for selecting winners in prize competitions, based on goals provided by the Secretary;

(4) determining, in consultation with the Secretary, the appropriate amount and funding sources for each prize to be awarded, subject to the final approval of the Secretary with respect to Federal funding;

(5) providing advice and consultation to the Secretary on the selection of judges in accordance with section 4(d), using criteria developed

in consultation with and subject to the final approval of the Secretary; and

(6) protecting against the entity's unauthorized use or disclosure of a registered participant's trade secrets and confidential business information. Any information properly identified as trade secrets or confidential business information that is submitted by a participant as part of a competitive program under this Act may be withheld from public disclosure.

(d) FUNDING SOURCES.—Prizes under this Act shall consist of Federal appropriated funds and any funds provided by the administering entity (including funds raised pursuant to subsection (c)(2)) for such cash prize programs. The Secretary may accept funds from other Federal agencies for such cash prizes and, notwithstanding section 3302(b) of title 31, United States Code, may use such funds for the cash prize program. Other than publication of the names of prize sponsors, the Secretary may not give any special consideration to any private sector entity or individual in return for a donation to the Secretary or administering entity.

(e) ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRIZES.—The Secretary may not issue a notice required by subsection (b)(2) until all the funds needed to pay out the announced amount of the prize have been appropriated or committed in writing by the administering entity. The Secretary may increase the amount of a prize after an initial announcement is made under subsection (b)(2) if—

(1) notice of the increase is provided in the same manner as the initial notice of the prize; and

(2) the funds needed to pay out the announced amount of the increase have been appropriated or committed in writing by the administering entity.

(f) SUNSET.—The authority to announce prize competitions under this Act shall terminate on September 30, 2018.

SEC. 4. PRIZE CATEGORIES.

(a) CATEGORIES.—The Secretary shall establish prizes for—

(1) advancements in technologies, components, or systems related to—

(A) hydrogen production;

(B) hydrogen storage;

(C) hydrogen distribution; and

(D) hydrogen utilization;

(2) prototypes of hydrogen-powered vehicles or other hydrogen-based products that best meet or exceed objective performance criteria, such as completion of a race over a certain distance or terrain or generation of energy at certain levels of efficiency; and

(3) transformational changes in technologies for the distribution or production of hydrogen that meet or exceed far-reaching objective criteria, which shall include minimal carbon emissions and which may include cost criteria designed to facilitate the eventual market success of a winning technology.

(b) AWARDS.—

(1) ADVANCEMENTS.—To the extent permitted under section 3(e), the prizes authorized under subsection (a)(1) shall be awarded biennially to the most significant advance made in each of the four subcategories described in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of subsection (a)(1) since the submission deadline of the previous prize competition in the same category under subsection (a)(1) or the date of enactment of this Act, whichever is later, unless no such advance is significant enough to merit an award. No one such prize may exceed $1,000,000. If less than $4,000,000 is available for a prize competition under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary may omit one or more subcategories, reduce the amount of the prizes, or not hold a prize competition.

(2) PROTOTYPES.—To the extent permitted under section 3(e), prizes authorized under subsection (a)(2) shall be awarded biennially in alternate years from the prizes authorized under subsection (a)(1). The Secretary is authorized to award up to one prize in this category in each 2-year period. No such prize may exceed $4,000,000. If no registered participants meet the objective performance criteria established pursuant to subsection (c) for a competition under this paragraph, the Secretary shall not award a prize.

(3) TRANSFORMATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES.—To the extent permitted under section 3(e), the Secretary shall announce one prize competition authorized under subsection (a)(3) as soon after the date of enactment of this Act as is practicable. A prize offered under this paragraph shall be not less than $10,000,000, paid to the winner in a lump sum, and an additional amount paid to the winner as a match for each dollar of private funding raised by the winner for the hydrogen technology beginning on the date the winner was named. The match shall be provided for 3 years after the date the prize winner is named or until the full amount of the prize has been paid out, whichever occurs first. A prize winner may elect to have the match amount paid to another entity that is continuing the development of the winning technology. The Secretary shall announce the rules for receiving the match in the notice required by section 3(b)(2). The Secretary shall award a prize under this paragraph only when a registered participant has met the objective criteria established for the prize pursuant to subsection (c) and announced pursuant to section 3(b)(2). Not more than $10,000,000 in Federal funds may be used for the prize award under this paragraph. The administering entity shall seek to raise $40,000,000 toward the matching award under this paragraph.

(c) CRITERIA.—In establishing the criteria required by this Act, the Secretary—

(1) shall consult with the Department's Hydrogen Technical and Fuel Cell Advisory Committee;

(2) shall consult with other Federal agencies, including the National Science Foundation; and

(3) may consult with other experts such as private organizations, including professional societies, industry associations, and the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering.

(d) JUDGES.—For each prize competition, the Secretary in consultation with the administering entity shall assemble a panel of qualified judges to select the winner or winners on the basis of the criteria established under subsection (c). Judges for each prize competition shall include individuals from outside the Department, including from the private sector. A judge, spouse, minor children, and members of the judge's household may not—

(1) have personal or financial interests in, or be an employee, officer, director, or agent of, any entity that is a registered participant in the prize competition for which he or she will serve as a judge; or

(2) have a familial or financial relationship with an individual who is a registered participant in the prize competition for which he or she will serve as a judge.

SEC. 5. ELIGIBILITY.

To be eligible to win a prize under this Act, an individual or entity—

(1) shall have complied with all the requirements in accordance with the Federal Register notice required under section 3(b)(2);

(2) in the case of a private entity, shall be incorporated in and maintain a primary place of business in the United States, and in the case of an individual, whether participating singly or in a group, shall be a citizen of, or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in, the United States; and

(3) shall not be a Federal entity, a Federal employee acting within the scope of his employment, or an employee of a national laboratory acting within the scope of his employment.

SEC. 6. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.

The Federal Government shall not, by virtue of offering or awarding a prize under this Act, be entitled to any intellectual property rights derived as a consequence of, or direct relation to, the participation by a registered participant in a competition authorized by this Act. This section shall not be construed to prevent the Federal Government from negotiating a license for the use of intellectual property developed for a prize competition under this Act.

SEC. 7. LIABILITY.

(a) WAIVER OF LIABILITY.—The Secretary may require registered participants to waive claims against the Federal Government and the administering entity (except claims for willful misconduct) for any injury, death, damage, or loss of property, revenue, or profits arising from the registered participants' participation in a competition under this Act. The Secretary shall give notice of any waiver required under this subsection in the notice required by section 3(b)(2). The Secretary may not require a registered participant to waive claims against the administering entity arising out of the unauthorized use or disclosure by the administering entity of the registered participant's trade secrets or confidential business information.

(b) LIABILITY INSURANCE.—

(1) REQUIREMENTS.—Registered participants shall be required to obtain liability insurance or demonstrate financial responsibility, in amounts determined by the Secretary, for claims by—

(A) a third party for death, bodily injury, or property damage or loss resulting from an activity carried out in connection with participation in a competition under this Act; and

(B) the Federal Government for damage or loss to Government property resulting from such an activity.

(2) FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INSURED.—The Federal Government shall be named as an additional insured under a registered participant's insurance policy required under paragraph (1)(A), and registered participants shall be required to agree to indemnify the Federal Government against third party claims for damages arising from or related to competition activities.

SEC. 8. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Not later than 60 days after the awarding of the first prize under this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall transmit to the Congress a report that—

(1) identifies each award recipient;

(2) describes the technologies developed by each award recipient; and

(3) specifies actions being taken toward commercial application of all technologies with respect to which a prize has been awarded under this Act.

SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) AWARDS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for the period encompassing fiscal years 2008 through 2017 for carrying out this Act—

(A) $20,000,000 for awards described in section (4)(a)(1);

(B) $20,000,000 for awards described in section 4(a)(2); and

(C) $10,000,000 for the award described in section 4(a)(3).

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—In addition to the amounts authorized in paragraph (1), there are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for each of fiscal years 2008 and 2009 $2,000,000 for the administrative costs of carrying out this Act.

(b) CARRYOVER OF FUNDS.—Funds appropriated for prize awards under this Act shall remain available until expended, and may be transferred, reprogrammed, or expended for other purposes only after the expiration of 10 fiscal years after the fiscal year for which the funds were originally appropriated. No provision in this Act permits obligation or payment of funds in violation of section 1341 of title 31 of the United States Code (commonly referred to as the Anti-Deficiency Act).

SEC. 10. NONSUBSTITUTION.

The programs created under this Act shall not be considered a substitute for Federal research and development programs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. INGLIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 632, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 632, the H-Prize Act of 2007, an innovative bill I introduced, along with Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, and that we passed in this House last year by a vote of 416–6.

America faces a great challenge today, finding a new clean energy source that will free us from our dependence on foreign oil and will combat global climate change. Hydrogen has great potential to be this new source and the H-Prize Act will help focus America's technological and entrepreneurial talent on making it happen.

Hydrogen-fuel cars already exist. Last year I had the opportunity to drive a hydrogen-fuel car. It didn't drive much differently than a gas-powered car, except for the silence, silence that I am used to somewhat from driving a hybrid. But that was the only real performance difference. There is no performance difference. The only difference I know of is the silence.

But there are really currently significant technical and economic barriers that must still be overcome before we can put a hydrogen car in every American garage. Current hydrogen-powered vehicles cost about $1 million. But while several significant technological advances are necessary, they are within reach.

Just yesterday, it was reported in the Chicago Tribune that engineers at Purdue University are researching methods of producing hydrogen gas by combining aluminum with another metal, gallium, and adding water. This research could yield ways of overcoming hydrogen storage problems, allowing automobile engines to burn this gas with little modification.

While we must continue to invest in traditional grants to fund university research, we in Congress have the responsibility to find creative and new ways to inspire researchers, business leaders and our youth to solve the problems that society faces today.

The H-Prize will help expand the possibility of hydrogen research, promoting people not normally involved in Federal research to explore one of the greatest challenges facing us today.

Specifically, this legislation would establish competitively awarded cash prizes to spur innovations that advance the use of hydrogen as a fuel for transportation. Every 2 years, four $1 million prizes would be given for advances in the production, storage, distribution and utilization of hydrogen, and one $4 million prize would be awarded for advances in prototype hydrogen vehicles. At the end of 10 years, one grand prize of $10 million would be given for a transformational advance in hydrogen energy technology.

In addition to this $10 million grand prize, we are also seeking to raise up to $40 million to add to that grand prize, $40 million in private contributions.

When these advances are made, hydrogen can fill critical energy needs even beyond transportation. Hydrogen will also be used to provide heat and generate electricity. The future possibilities of this energy source are enormous.

Most importantly, hydrogen will be a clean, domestic energy source. When used for energy, hydrogen produces no emissions besides water, zero emissions, an amazing advance over current energy resources. By utilizing hydrogen, we can improve our national security by lessening our dependence on foreign oil that often comes from unstable countries.

Mr. Speaker, America has always been at the forefront of technological breakthroughs. We have responded to great challenges, perhaps most famously, President John F. Kennedy's challenge to land a man on the moon before the end of the 1960s. We have seen that prizes have been an effective way to inspire technological advances.

Perhaps most famously the prize won by Lindbergh for his successful nonstop flight across the Atlantic. More recently, the Ansari X-Prize given to the first private team to build and fly a spaceship 100 kilometers above earth. The H-Prize is patterned after this X-Prize.

We have seen that challenges and prizes help to spark the imagination of scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs, who invest blood, sweat, tears and often large sums of money, sums of money even larger than the prizes being given, to achieve a great goal.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill today. Perhaps one day we will look back on the H-Prize as a catalyst to a better, cleaner, more secure America and world.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to one of the co-chairs of the House Hydrogen Caucus, CHARLIE DENT from Pennsylvania.

Mr. DENT. I too want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. INGLIS) for working together so well to bring this important piece of legislation to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I was proud to join 415 of my colleagues in supporting this bill last Congress, and I am pleased that the H-Prize Act has been brought up again so that we can have an opportunity to enact this important legislation into law.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 632, the H-Prize Act. The Constitution of the United States provides that Congress has the power to promote the progress of science and the useful arts. We, in Congress, have an opportunity and obligation to promote scientific advancement today. For more than a century, America's industry, transportation, and households have been heavily reliant on foreign oil. We must now face newer realities.

Petroleum is a finite resource. No matter how much we explore and discover, we will one day run out and booming worldwide demand is burning up resources and driving up prices. We must search for alternatives to wean us off our addiction to foreign sources of oil. The drive to produce energy economically can be advanced to American innovation and competition.

Fossil fuel technology was the impetus for 20th century industrial development. Today, hydrogen holds a promise of being the driver for the economy of the future and ushering in a new generation of an American energy independence.

Hydrogen makes up 98 percent of the known universe, and it is the third most abundant element of the earth's surface. It is the lightest of all gases, the coldest of all liquids, next to helium. As a component of water, minerals and acids, it makes up a fundamental part of all hydrocarbons and organic substances. Hydrogen is renewable, abundant, efficient and clean. Unlike carbon-based fuels, it does not create fumes or other harmful emissions.

In fact, using hydrogen in fuel cells produces only electricity and pure water. By awarding prizes in three of the most critical areas of technological development, the H-Prize Act will incentivize the realization of scientific advancements that will break down the obstacles that stand in the way of the hydrogen economy.

Specifically, H-Prize will promote technological advancements in hydrogen production, storage, distribution and utilization. Prizes will be awarded for the development of hydrogen vehicle prototypes that meet ambitious performance goals. Finally, the bill will award the implementation of critical transformational technologies.

We are not that far away from making hydrogen a functional source of energy. H.R. 632 will speed the development of breakthrough technologies that will make hydrogen a practical alternative to oil in our transportation sector and set our Nation on a path toward energy independence. I strongly urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 632.

Again, I do want to commend the two gentlemen, Mr. LIPINSKI of Illinois and Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, for their strong advocacy on this critical issue.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlelady from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE).

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in very strong support of the H-Prize bill that we have before us, H.R. 632.

This legislation encourages the best of what this House can offer, and that is ingenuity and the genius of the American inventor. We have always known that when the American people in our free markets put our minds to a problem, there is no stopping them. When we faced the challenges of World War II, for the run-away inflation of the 1970s, American genius and the free market prevailed and delivered our solutions.

Today's challenge is for us to reduce our dependence on foreign oil sources. Our goal is to create a free market diversified portfolio of energy sources, so that we are never again reliant on one single source for our energy needs. Whether with wind, solar, nuclear or biofuel, this Congress' goal should be to protect the environment with as little prejudice for or against alternative energy sources as possible.

One might ask why? As we are already seeing with ethanol, we should never forget the law of unintended consequences. By forcing ethanol into our gas tanks, Congress has unfortunately raised the price of our gas and the price of feed for our livestock.

□ 1200

Listen up, America. Our experience with ethanol should be a cautionary reminder of the burdens government regulation places on our economy and the everyday lives of American families.

What is so brilliant about the H-Prize is that, unlike most of the programs coming out of Congress, this bill doesn't mandate a specific form of technology or add additional regulatory burden. Indeed, instead, the H-Prize encourages the inventor and the market to generate the ideas and solutions.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans pretty much have been shut out of debate and denied amendments, but this bill was one of our ideas from the last Congress which I voted for then, and I certainly will vote for now. I commend you for moving a free market approach through to the floor so that the 110th Congress can also do the right thing.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) for his work on a number of energy initiatives that we're collaborating on. This is one of those. I think it's a very exciting bill that won't solve all of our challenges, but it will get us down the road toward a brighter energy future.

And it's always helpful to have a picture tell a thousand words. This is a picture of a gas line in a province in China on August 17, 2005. That's a line of cars waiting to buy gas.

ExxonMobil tells us the global energy demand is expected to grow by 60 percent between now and 2030. So we've got to find something to do in order to get to a brighter energy future, one that does not involve the restricted supply that we have when it comes to petroleum. So what we've come up with is an idea of using the incentives of a prize to make it happen, to make some breakthroughs happen when it comes to hydrogen.

Well, the good news is we've done prizes before. In 1927, Charles Lindbergh won a prize for being the first to make a successful transatlantic flight. It worked with flight, and it worked again here more recently when the Ansari X-Prize was created to incentivize space flight. On October 4, 2004, Burt Rutan's Spaceship 1 became the first private spacecraft with commercial potential, succeeding in going into space twice within 2 weeks; and the result was they won the Ansari X-Prize.

So the concept here is to build on that kind of legacy and create the H-Prize. The good news for our colleagues is this shouldn't be a terribly controversial vote. The last time we did it, we got 416 votes in favor of the H-Prize. So it's a do-over with a 416–6 margin last time. So we're hoping that it's going to be successful here today on the floor.

As my colleague from Illinois just said, Mr. LIPINSKI was telling us that the concept is to incentivize breakthroughs in hydrogen technology; and, as he said, technical breakthroughs would be rewarded with a $1 million prize and then prototypes every other year, $4 million. And then the transformational technology prize, the big one, would be a $10 million prize, hopefully augmented by up to $40 million of private money that's authorized under the bill.

So the concept is to, basically, create the most nongovernmental way to achieve a governmental purpose, which is to break this dependence on oil. So we've created the H-Prize. It's a way of incentivizing entrepreneurs and inventors to come together and to create teams that can make this breakthrough.

The beauty of a prize, two beauties of the prizes to point out here to our colleagues, one is, if nobody does it, you don't pay the prize money out, so they've got to win it in order for us to incur the obligation to pay the money out. That's a good thing about prizes.

The second thing that's very important about prizes is the breakthroughs may come from way outside the normal realm that you would expect; and it could be that it's not the normal people or the normal suspects that might come forward with a breakthrough. It may be somebody way afield.

For example, hydrogen breakthroughs may come from biological agents that create hydrogen as part of their metabolism. That's way outside the field of where a lot of people are expecting hydrogen production to come from. But if you have a prize that isn't restricted as to how you create the hydrogen, then you get a lot more entrants, and you get interest from a broad range of fields that may come in with the out-of-the-box thinking that can transform our energy supply.

So I'm very pleased that we've got it on the floor today. I thank the gentleman from Illinois once again for his collaboration on these topics. I'm hopeful that today we'll pass it with a large margin and that we'll be successful with the other body and then a signature by the President, and this will be one of the ways that we can break this addiction to oil and move to a more stable energy future for America.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is another great example of what we have been able to do on the Science and Technology Committee by working together in a bipartisan manner. Led by Chairman GORDON, working with Ranking Member HALL, I hope that we can continue this cooperation on other critical issues related to America's future technological competitiveness, energy dependence and global climate change. This is the type of bipartisan work we need to continue to be doing to make progress.

I'd also like to thank Mr. INGLIS for all the work he has done on this. We worked on this bill last year. We worked together on that, and Mr. INGLIS is the one who came forward at that time with the original idea on this. He's worked very well. We have continued to work to make progress, and I'm very hopeful that this year we have worked with the Senate and the administration. We can get this past not just the House but signed into law. Because I think this H-Prize act has really great potential. It has the great potential to solve the great energy challenge we face today. But perhaps it may be most important in spurring the imagination of our youth, our most valuable resource in this country.

I remember in the 1970s there was great excitement about alternative energy. There was an environmental movement, and there was the gasoline crisis, and there was great interest in helping clean up the environment, investing in alternative energy.

It's something that really got me excited. I was caught up in it when I was in grade school back in the 1970s. I remember I did my eighth grade science

fair project on solar energy. That was back in 1980. We saw, unfortunately, though, that the interest in alternative energy really dropped off after that time. Not only interest, but then Federal funding dropped off.

□ 1210

Just in talking to the Science Coalition this morning, they talked about how critical that was when that research funding dropped off. We can't afford to let that happen again. But what did happen with me is it really inspired me, got me interested. I went out and got a degree in mechanical engineering, and although I did not continue down that road, today I bring that background to this House and continue to work on these issues, understanding the importance of this issue and understanding the importance of the Federal Government's really investing in our future and especially in alternative energy. And these challenges are great. We must really confront them.

So today maybe this H-Prize Act will inspire another child out there today. He or she may become an engineer or a scientist or an entrepreneur who plays a hand in the next technological breakthrough. So there is great hope with this H-Prize Act. And today, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me by passing this bill, and hopefully in the future we can look back to today and see it as a major change and a major move forward for America and for the world.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 632, the H-Prize Act of 2007.

The federal government should become more involved in supporting cutting-edge technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and move our nation toward renewable energy.

As a member of the House Committee on Science and Technology, I committed toward supporting a variety of renewable energy technologies—including hydrogen.

H.R. 632 would create competitive cash prizes to reward innovative research, development commercial application of hydrogen energy technologies.

Hydrogen cars and other vehicles would make such a difference in air quality, Mr. Speaker, especially in Texas. Cities in Texas have some of the poorest air quality in the Nation.

Hydrogen-powered vehicles could be designed for mass-scale use. These vehicles would emit only water vapor as a byproduct and reduce our dependence on foreign oil in the long term.

Hydrogen, solar, wind, geothermal, and nuclear are all cleaner energy sources than fossil fuels. H.R. 632 is a positive step toward developing energy technologies that create a brighter future for our children and grandchildren.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the H-Prize Act of 2007, H.R. 632, an important step forward in making America more competitive and energy independent. As a founding member of the House Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Caucus and a cosponsor of this bill, I believe we must move forward in fostering innovation and competition in hydrogen technology, in order to end our addiction to oil.

According to the Department of Energy, major advances must be made in hydrogen production, distribution, and storage before it can be widely used as a fuel source. The H-Prize Act would excite and attract innovators throughout the country to take up this important task. Specifically, the bill would authorize $50 million from fiscal year 2008 through fiscal year 2017 to be awarded in cash prizes to non-federal entities in three categories—technologies created to assist in the distribution or production of hydrogen; development of hydrogen powered vehicles; and ''transformational technology'' related to production, storage, distribution, or use of hydrogen fuel. And importantly, the cash prizes would only go to individuals who produce breakthrough results in these categories, spurring competition and innovation into much needed technology.

Solution to our energy crisis can be found in our backyard. Hydrogen can be produced here on American soil. Companies such as UTC Power and Fuel Cell Energy in my district in Connecticut produce hydrogen fuel cells which are a clean, reliable form of energy. Technology such as this can relieve us from our dependence on foreign nations for our energy and create a much healthier alternative for our environment.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today in advancing science and supporting H.R. 632. It's time for us to take leadership and commit to the safety and health of our nation by inspiring our nation's brightest to make hydrogen technology a reality.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SALAZAR). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 632, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

SECURELY PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST CYBER TRESPASS ACT

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 964) to protect users of the Internet from unknowing transmission of their personally identifiable information through spyware programs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 964

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Securely Protect Yourself Against Cyber Trespass Act'' or the ''Spy Act''.

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION OF UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES RELATING TO SPYWARE.

(a) PROHIBITION.—It is unlawful for any person, who is not the owner or authorized user of a protected computer, to engage in unfair or deceptive acts or practices that involve any of the following conduct with respect to the protected computer:

(1) Taking control of the computer by—

(A) utilizing such computer to send unsolicited information or material from the computer to others;

(B) diverting the Internet browser of the computer, or similar program of the computer used to access and navigate the Internet—

(i) without authorization of the owner or authorized user of the computer; and

(ii) away from the site the user intended to view, to one or more other Web pages, such that the user is prevented from viewing the content at the intended Web page, unless such diverting is otherwise authorized;

(C) accessing, hijacking, or otherwise using the modem, or Internet connection or service, for the computer and thereby causing damage to the computer or causing the owner or authorized user or a third party defrauded by such conduct to incur charges or other costs for a service that is not authorized by such owner or authorized user;

(D) using the computer as part of an activity performed by a group of computers that causes damage to another computer; or

(E) delivering advertisements or a series of advertisements that a user of the computer cannot close or terminate without undue effort or knowledge by the user or without turning off the computer or closing all sessions of the Internet browser for the computer.

(2) Modifying settings related to use of the computer or to the computer's access to or use of the Internet by altering—

(A) the Web page that appears when the owner or authorized user launches an Internet browser or similar program used to access and navigate the Internet;

(B) the default provider used to access or search the Internet, or other existing Internet connections settings;

(C) a list of bookmarks used by the computer to access Web pages; or

(D) security or other settings of the computer that protect information about the owner or authorized user for the purposes of causing damage or harm to the computer or owner or user.

(3) Collecting personally identifiable information through the use of a keystroke logging function.

(4) Inducing the owner or authorized user of the computer to disclose personally identifiable information by means of a Web page that—

(A) is substantially similar to a Web page established or provided by another person; and

(B) misleads the owner or authorized user that such Web page is provided by such other person.

(5) Inducing the owner or authorized user to install a component of computer software onto the computer, or preventing reasonable efforts to block the installation or execution of, or to disable, a component of computer software by—

(A) presenting the owner or authorized user with an option to decline installation of such a component such that, when the option is selected by the owner or authorized user or when the owner or authorized user reasonably attempts to decline the installation, the installation nevertheless proceeds; or